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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

## UNITED STATES.

*Extract from the Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1902.*

### PUBLIC HEALTH AND MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE.

As recommended in the last report of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Congress passed an act to increase the efficiency and change the name of the Marine-Hospital Service, which was approved by the President July 1, 1902. Under this act, the title of the Service was changed to that of Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service of the United States. This measure materially broadens the scope of the Marine Hospital Service, giving it the name as well as the functions of a public-health service.

#### *National quarantine.*

The Surgeon-General reports that during the year there were 5,828 vessels inspected and 420 vessels disinfected at national quarantine stations in the United States. At the close of the fiscal year, June 30, 1902, the Service owned 19 complete maritime quarantine stations, and 18 stations where inspection of incoming vessels is conducted by officers of the Service, making a total of 37 domestic quarantine stations. In addition to these national stations, there are 8 disinfection stations and 12 inspection stations conducted by State or municipal authority within the boundary of the United States.

In January, 1902, the quarantine functions at Portland, Me., were transferred to and accepted by the Service. This was done in accordance with act of Congress approved February 15, 1893, in like manner as the quarantine service at Savannah, Ga., was acquired in April, 1899, and the maritime quarantine stations of the State of Florida in August, 1901. Provision was made in the sundry civil bill, approved June 28, 1902, for the purchase of the quarantine stations of the State of Florida which were thus transferred.

#### *Texas border quarantine.*

To prevent the introduction of yellow fever, smallpox, and typhus from the Republic of Mexico, land quarantines have been maintained at El Paso, Eagle Pass, and Laredo, Tex., and the officers engaged in

this work have cooperated with the United States Immigration Service. At these stations over 50,000 passengers were inspected, of whom 25 were detained for observation and their baggage disinfected.

*Smallpox.*

During the year smallpox was reported as occurring in 44 States and Territories of the Union. The number of cases reported for the year ended June 30, 1902, was 55,857. The deaths were 1,852, a mortality of 3.31 per cent as compared with 38,506 cases and 689 deaths during the year ended June 30, 1901.

As in previous years, the Service has rendered assistance to State and local boards of health by detailing officers to advise and assist the States in formulating and putting into execution proper regulations to suppress and prevent the spread of smallpox.

On account of the outbreak of smallpox at nearby points in New Brunswick, Canada, and at the request of the State board of health of Maine, a temporary border quarantine station was established at Vanceboro, Me., and a maritime station at Eastport, Me., the latter being still in operation.

*Plague.*

Bubonic plague, the existence of which in San Francisco was first reported March 8, 1900, and confirmed by a commission appointed by the Department consisting of 3 bacteriologists of the highest reputation, continues to be reported despite the amount of work which was done last year for the purpose of its eradication from Chinatown in that city, and which work covered, as stated in last year's report, the disinfection of over 14,000 rooms under the supervision of an officer of this Service. There have been reported up to August 31, 1902, 70 cases as occurring since March 8, 1900, and during the months of July and August of the present year 14 cases were reported. Nine cases were reported in September and 7 in October. In continuance of the plan adopted last year, the Service has maintained its organization at San Francisco, which has continued its work of assisting the local board of the city by examination of the sick and dead in the infected locality, reporting all suspicious cases that have occurred. Cases confirmed by bacteriological examination have been published regularly in the public health reports of the Service.

This disease has been reported during the fiscal year 1902 in the following-named countries: Australia, Brazil, British South Africa, China, Egypt, England, France, Hawaiian Islands, India, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Paraguay, Philippine Islands, Russia, Scotland, Spain, Straits Settlements, and Turkey.

*Leprosy.*

The report of the commission of medical officers of the Marine-Hospital Service, appointed under the act of March 2, 1899, regarding the

prevalence of leprosy in the United States, was submitted to Congress at its last session, and has been published.

The recommendation of the commission, approved by the Surgeon-General, for the establishment of a national leprosarium meeting with approval of the Department, a bill will be submitted for the consideration of Congress.

*Yellow fever.*

No yellow fever was reported in the United States during the past year. Reports have been received of the existence of this disease in Brazil, United States of Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dutch West Indies, Haiti, Mexico, and Salvador. Mexico has furnished a large proportion of cases during the past year, and Cuba, which has heretofore reported annually a large number, had only 61 cases and 14 deaths from yellow fever during the six months ended December 31, 1901, and 1 case and no death for the six months ended June 30, 1902, and this one was represented as imported.

The plan of an international agreement of American Republics in the interest of sanitation, which was recommended by the Surgeon-General to the chairman of the United States delegation for presentation to the conference of American States, which convened in the City of Mexico October 22, 1901, was modified, and, as modified, was favorably acted upon. Resolutions were adopted for the organization of an international sanitary conference of the American States. In accordance with these resolutions, the first of the conferences will be held in Washington, D. C., December 2, 1902. The delegates on the part of the United States have been appointed and a plan of organization and a tentative program submitted.

The yellow-fever institute, mention of which was made in the last report as having been organized by the Surgeon-General for the purpose of investigating questions concerning yellow fever, has continued its work.

*Foreign and insular quarantine and immigration.*

Maritime quarantine has been conducted in Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii, and the Philippines.

The severe outbreak of cholera in the island of Luzon has necessitated the maintenance of a stringent quarantine on outgoing vessels from Manila to the uninfected ports of the Philippines, as well as those of the United States and its insular possessions. The recently fitted up Mariveles quarantine station, across the bay from Manila, has been of the greatest assistance in the detention, disinfection, and observation of the personnel of vessels on which cholera has appeared. Quarantine of five days has been imposed on army transports before sailing for the United States.

Acting assistant surgeons are stationed at Iloilo and Cebu.

There are 5 fully equipped quarantine stations in Cuba—at Havana, Matanzas, Nuevitas, Santiago, and Cienfuegos. Until May 20, when the United States formally transferred the government of Cuba to the Cuban Government, there were 14 inspecting stations operated by the Service, in charge of acting assistant surgeons. Since May 20 the accredited medical officers of the Service have been attached to the consulates of their ports. While the quarantine inspection of incoming vessels has been turned over to the Cuban authorities at these 5 ports since May 20, 1902, all vessels departing for the United States ports are still inspected and certified to by medical officers of the Service.

The quarantine service in Porto Rico has been conducted upon the same lines as for the previous fiscal year. The disinfecting barge *Argus* has been sent to Ponce to be used for the disinfection of vessels. Miraflores Island, at San Juan, P. R., has been recently transferred by Executive order to the Service, and is now used as a quarantine station.

Litigation over the title of the Service to the quarantine station at Honolulu having been finally settled, necessary improvements contemplated can now be made.

Medical officers have been stationed at the ports of London, Liverpool, and Naples, at Quebec, Canada, and Halifax, Nova Scotia. During the active quarantine season, medical officers were stationed at the 7 fruit ports of Central and South America to inspect fruit vessels departing for United States ports. Officers have been on duty at Yokohama and Kobe, Japan; Hongkong, China; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Vera Cruz, Progreso, and Tampico, Mexico, and one has been recently sent to Shanghai, China. There is also a sanitary inspector at Nagasaki, Japan.

The medical inspection of immigrants was performed at 32 ports during the year by the medical officers of the Service detailed for that purpose; also at the ports of the islands of Porto Rico and Hawaii. Immigrants were also inspected at Quebec, Canada, and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Emigrants leaving Naples and Palermo for the United States are inspected by a medical officer stationed at the first-named place.

#### *Marine hospitals and relief.*

The Surgeon-General reports that 56,310 sick and disabled seamen of the merchant marine were treated during the fiscal year, of whom 12,927 were in hospitals.

The Service controls and operates 23 hospitals, of which 21 are owned by the United States and 2 are leased buildings. In addition to the hospitals, there are 120 relief stations where seamen receive hospital and dispensary treatment. Relief stations have been established at Houghton, Mich., Hoquiam, Wash., and Sheboygan, Wis.

*New hospitals.*

As recommended in the last annual report, provision was made by the Congress for a marine hospital at New York, N. Y., by an appropriation of \$250,000 for the purchase of the site and building now occupied, or purchase of a new site and erection of a building. Negotiations to that end are now in progress.

Congress also authorized and made appropriations for marine hospitals at Buffalo, Pittsburg, and Savannah, and measures have been taken toward selecting the sites and erecting the buildings for the same.

*Sanatorium for consumptives, Fort Stanton, N. Mex.*

The relief transactions of this station have increased to a marked degree, 212 patients having been treated during the year, an excess of 60 over the previous year.

The Surgeon General invites the attention of the Congress to the expediency, as a sanitary and prophylactic measure, of receiving upon the large reservation now at the disposal of the Service at Fort Stanton such cases of tuberculosis as may be sent there for treatment by State health authorities upon the payment of a per diem rate, to be based upon the cost of maintenance of the patients. He declares that this measure would probably result in the cure of many ill with a disease incurable under general conditions of environment, and would diminish centers of infection established by these patients in their homes, and that such a provision would materially aid in the well-directed efforts now being made for the suppression of the disease in the United States.

*Aid to other services.*

During the year the Service has extended aid to other branches of the Government as follows: To the Revenue-Cutter Service, in the physical examination of 800 applicants for enlistment, 145 of whom were rejected; to the Steamboat-Inspection Service, in the examination as to visual capacity of 1,759 pilots, of whom 85 were rejected; to the Life-Saving Service, in the physical examination of 1,045 surfmen, of whom 58 were rejected; to the Immigration Service, in the medical inspection of 746,297 immigrants arriving at the various ports of the United States and Cuba; to the Coast and Geodetic Survey and Light-House Service, in the physical examination of 27 applicants for enlistment, of whom 1 was rejected.

*Hygienic laboratory.*

The laboratory building appropriated for by act approved March 3, 1901, is now in course of construction.

On account of the importance of bubonic plague in its relation to the public health, studies upon this disease were continued throughout the year in the laboratory, and many doses of the Haffkine prophylactic were made and distributed to quarantine stations in the United States, as well

as to our possessions in the Philippine Islands and Hawaii. The laboratory investigated, from a bacteriological and pathological standpoint, many specimens from suspected cases of plague sent from the various quarantine stations, and a thesis is to be published upon this subject.

As rats assist in spreading the plague, special experiments were made with a microbe said to be pathogenic for these animals, and the result of the experiments has been published.

Horses were treated in an endeavor to procure curative and preventive serums for yellow fever, plague, typhoid fever, and pneumonia.

In view of the importance of trachoma and its frequency among immigrants coming into the United States, the laboratory is making special investigation as to its nature, cause, and treatment.

Much work was done throughout the year upon disinfection and disinfectants. Disinfection against mosquitoes was given special attention last summer on account of the relation of these insects to the spread of various diseases, particularly malaria and yellow fever, and a bulletin was published on this subject. Tuberculosis, car sanitation, and small-pox have also received the attention of the workers in the laboratory, and reports upon the first two of these subjects have been published.

The Surgeon-General has reported that an additional building will be required for the laboratory, and the favorable action of the Congress thereon is recommended.

*Statistical reports of States and cities of the United States—Yearly and monthly.*

CALIFORNIA—*San Diego*.—Month of October, 1902. Estimated population, 20,000. Total number of deaths, 19, including 2 from tuberculosis.

CONNECTICUT—*Stamford*.—Month of November, 1902. Estimated population, 21,000. Total number of deaths not reported.

FLORIDA—*Tampa*.—Month of October, 1902. Estimated population, 20,000. Total number of deaths, 22, including 1 from diphtheria.

GEORGIA—*Augusta*.—Month of November, 1902. Estimated population, 41,441. Total number of deaths, 60—white, 21; colored, 39—including diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 1; scarlet fever, 1, and 4 from tuberculosis.

*Columbus*.—Month of November, 1902. Estimated population, 19,303—white, 10,276; colored, 9,027. Total number of deaths, 28—white, 7; colored, 21—including diphtheria, 1, and 6 from tuberculosis.

ILLINOIS—*Jacksonville*.—Month of November, 1902. Census population, 15,078. Total number of deaths, 17, including enteric fever, 2, and 5 from tuberculosis.

*Springfield*.—Month of November, 1902. Estimated population, 36,000. Total number of deaths, 41—white, 37; colored, 4—including diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 2, and 8 from tuberculosis.

IOWA—*Davenport*.—Month of September, 1902. Estimated population, 40,000. Total number of deaths, 52, including scarlet fever, 1, and 5 from tuberculosis.